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Clarksburg, W. Va., Sep. 27 1905

INQUESTS.

The practice of arresting men on suspicion of a grave crime and throwing them into jail without some degree of substantial evidence at least is to be condemned. Suspicion ought to be very strong to warrant such procedure, and, in the case of alleged murder, an inquest at least ought to be held and some facts gathered.

There should have been an inquest in the case of William Koon, since the charge of murder is preferred. The laws of this state provide for such things, and no man ought to be arrested and held for murder on suspicion, unless an inquest is properly held, especially when there is ample opportunity to summon a jury and hold such inquest before the body is buried. An autopsy is not sufficient within itself. The regular form of law should be observed in all such cases. The fact is, that there ought to be an inquest every time death results from railroad accidents. There is most always some one to blame and that one, if possible, should be brought to justice. Numerous railroad casualties happen and no regular form of inquiry is observed. Ofttimes mystery seems to surround deaths and they are left in the same veil.

In the case of William Koon, it was taken for granted, for a while at least, that he met death some way or other by a railroad train. What effort was made to place the responsibility? What effort would have been made had it been shown that death did thus occur? Would the railroad company have been required to show that it gave proper warning?

And, now that it has been taken for granted that the railroad is not at fault, what real basis is there for the arrest of men on suspicion? Why not suspect the railroad for it? And then why not arrest the company for it, or its employees, or officials?

The men arrested will doubtless say they had nothing to do with it. The yard crew are at large. The two men are in jail. Now, why? The fact, that Koon was found along the railroad tracks leads first to the conclusion that he was killed by a train. This should be disproved. What would have determined that so well as an inquest? What would have determined so well whether the two men now in jail should have been arrested? An inquest. Inquests are imperative except in cases where the matter is so plain that there can not be any doubt about it.

In the present case there does not seem to be any thing else but a suspicion and that, too, without reasonable grounds to make a case in the end. Koon may have been murdered. If so there ought to have been an inquest. Koon may have been inquest. Koon may have been inquest.

However, after all is said and done, the matter lies largely in the discretion of the coroner himself and in this instance he has devoted himself diligently to the hunting of evidence, as he always does to satisfy himself as to whether a crime has been committed and whether there is justification for prosecution, and by it has obtained possibly more than could have been brought out at an inquest, and has thus saved a lot of unnecessary expense to the county. In other words, the hearing before the magistrate will serve a double purpose—that of an inquest and the lawful inquiry that might have followed.

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EDITORS AND OTHERS.

According to the votes cast for the next place of meeting, there were just twenty-five newspaper representatives at the recent editorial association.

Surprisingly few is the number, when it is taken into consideration that most any county in the state, where more than one or two newspapers are published could have furnished more than half that number, entitled to be there. So long as the editorial association admits into membership men who are not entitled to the name of editor, it need not expect to do the best work. Even at the recent session there were members of other professions there as members, and yet they do not belong to the editorial profession at all.

The editor has a right to protect his profession just as much as the lawyers have theirs.

There ought to be a well-laid down rule as to the qualifications of members of the association. "Editorial" is a term that ought to apply to those engaged as editors. Even newspaper publishers may not be editors.

And an editor, who happens also to be a newspaper publisher ought not to belong to an editorial association, except in the capacity of an editor.

It does occur to editors that the present editorial association of this state is composed of publishers of newspapers rather than editors, and that the name as to it is a misnomer. It ought to be called the "Newspaper Association."

There should be a distinction between publishers and editors, and there is no better place to make it than in what is alleged to be an organization of editors. The distinction should be drawn, or still better yet would be the thought to make it an organization for the advantage of both publisher and editor, and keep out all who are not identified with either line of work. For example, men who have passed from active work as editors and who have no interest in newspapers should not be permitted to be members, and certainly not to hold office in the association, local, state or national, such as some do, who have not been engaged in the business for years.

The local coal company's contract to furnish coal for Panama Canal use, which was awarded it over many competitors, is a testimonial West Virginia and especially this section should be proud of. We always thought there was no finer coal any where than in this section. Now we know it.

A BRUTAL MURDER WAS COMMITTED LAST NIGHT

A murder was committed last night in the city of Clarksburg. Thus, in plain frank language, are these words spoken, and the truth lies in every syllable. And the victim was a man of the cloth, a man doing good according to his lights, was brutally stricken down by a fellowman in whose breast he had implanted the first thoughts of good actions.

The scene of the murder was a lonely valley near a high railroad bridge, and it was here that the body was discovered. The story of the crime is a long one, dealing with all the emotions and passions that the uncontrolled human heart is capable of expressing in its unguarded moments.

Briefly stated, this small rural city had decided to grant no more saloon licenses, as the last one was too near the village church, where revival meetings were being held. The worthy pastor of this edifice has almost obtained from the proprietor of this hell hole to cease his nefarious trade; but his patrons objected to his early closing hours, and aided and abetted by the mayor they succeeded in taking away his license.

It was shortly after this that the culmination of the tragedy came, but thanks to the efforts of our much newsily maligned police force, the criminals were tracked down and their rendezvous discovered. We will not spare one of them, for they'll belong to the Myrtle-Harder Stock Company, that again had the building committee inspecting the walls of the Grand Opera House, to see if a few more could be admitted.

We readily don't think Miss Hazel Carleton intends to insult our "Near" Southern hospitality, but she said it. She said: "Since mother died no one cares for me." Don't like to correct a lady, but if the strict rules of the theatrical profession, and the exigencies of fate did not prohibit, we are sure that there was not a man in the audience that would not gladly be a mother to Miss Carleton.

Mr. Franklin Vail again loosened the heart strings of the susceptibility, he wore knickerbockers. Alas—and lackaday, we could forgive the "knickerbockers" but he smoked a cigarette. Think of it in the first flush of his young (leading) manhood to puff those paper cigars. Mr. Vail also said he was 40 miles or 40 minutes from home, possibly now, but as his ultimate destination is Broadway, he will get closer than that if he cuts out the cigarettes. We are sure that Mr. Barrow LePage is really no more of a villain than a would-be critic, but he was cast for the pursuing villain again and he succeeded. He pursued his usual villainy and reaped its usual reward. But Mr. LePage is a conscientious actor. He did not smoke last night, and he used a new nickel plated revolver.

Miss Maude Eburne played an old witch part as good as any one could, a thankless part at best. While she takes a rest from reading fortunes, we will read hers, and that is that she is a character woman—brief—but worth cultivating.

Miss Daisy Carleton again proved her versatility, by playing an old colored woman's part, but cheer up, you can care for Hazel since she says no one else does.

The performance in its entirety entirely duplicated the success of last night and proved without a doubt that this company is as good if not the best, extant today. But at the same time as much as we would like to sing "Hey, Rube" for this company, we can't forget that

Frankie smoked a cigarette and said he was 40 miles from home, and, oh, blighted hopes, Hazel said no one cared for her.

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